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10 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, BE

SUBJECT : Evaluation of USSR Program conducted by Office of Training

On the basis of hearing the lectures for only one week myself, and Mark hearing them for 2½ weeks, we offer the following comments:

1. We both feel that this type of area program can contribute to increasing analyst effectiveness, because it offers a comprehensive view of the political and economic history of an area thus offering a key to what that area's future actions may be. Although much of this material can be covered by reading, it seems to us that there is a great deal to be gained by hearing the comments of men whose lives have been devoted to a particular subject, and that much can be gained from discussions which may follow such comments.

We believe the program might be even more useful if more time was devoted to a consideration of current problems in the area, and conjectures as to means that are being taken to solve them.

2. We both feel that this particular program was useful to us although we heard such a small part of the lectures. The comparison of US living standards with those of the USSR was especially interesting because such comparisons involved a consideration of all aspects of the USSR economy.

3. a. The subject matter was relevant although not new. However, in any discussion of an already familiar subject, one usually has an opportunity to hear an appraisal that is new. We believe that both the lecturers had a great deal of new material to present to familiar subjects.

b. The manner and method of presentation were satisfactory, except that a discussion period at the end of the lectures on economics would have been effective, we believe.

c. We do not feel in a position to comment on the time allotted for the program in general, but we think that the two-hour lecture periods were quite satisfactory.

d. Time allotted to discussion was satisfactory for the political course, but as noted above, more discussion periods in economics would have

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been effective.

4. we believe that supplementary reading would be fine, but do not feel that the preparation of papers would be very feasible since such papers require a good deal of research and the pure mechanics of writing them takes up much time.



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